

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES' SERVICES**  
**18th July, 2012**

Present:- Councillor Lakin (in the Chair); Councillors Dalton and Beaumont.

**D23. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 4TH JULY, 2012.**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services were considered.

Resolved: - That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Cabinet Member be agreed as a correct record for signature by the Chairman.

**D24. COMMISSIONING OF EARLY HELP FOR ROTHERHAM FAMILIES NOT ENGAGED WITH CHILDREN'S CENTRES.**

Consideration was given to the report submitted by the Strategic Commissioning Manager, Resources Directorate, which outlined proposals to undertake a pilot project in conjunction with the children and young people's voluntary and community sector consortium. The proposed pilot would identify families with at least one child who were not currently engaged with a Children's Centre.

It was proposed that the project would run in the Dinnington and Thrybergh areas, as both had higher than average levels of deprivation and lower than average levels of engagement with Children's Centres. The pilot would run for nine-months and would also serve as a test model for engaging families within statutory services.

The stated aims of the proposed pilot project were: -

- Engage families not actively involved with Children's Centres or other similar services, and identify if they required help;
- Identify whole family issues that may be causing concern;
- Help families resolve their issues in a constructive and inclusive way;
- Connect families to their local community to make the best use of their local resources and services;
- Signpost or support families to gain help where their needs were greater and required specialist intervention;
- Where there may be gaps in services, encourage local support in the community to be explored and developed.

There would be ten 'Delivery Partners' within the project and each would provide a Family Engagement Project Co-ordinator who would be responsible for the identification of families that required help, and link them to the appropriate voluntary and community sector consortium provider.

Analysis of the project would be undertaken by Children England, a national charity that worked with children and families. Part of Children England's strategic partnership work was for the Department for Education and involved developing commissioning arrangements with the local voluntary and

community sector in light of the provisions of the Localism Act, 2011. Children England would develop a strategic work programme that would demonstrate the project's impact. It was anticipated that the model could be used to demonstrate social and economic returns on investments.

Discussion ensued in relation to the proposed pilot, and the following issues were raised and clarified: -

- Working across local authority boundaries;
- Professional skill level of the Family Engagement workers, and the areas of knowledge that would be required in relation to provision offer, parenting skills, engagement skills and local knowledge;
- Working holistically to include both children's and adults' services;
- Role of the project in the Early Help Strategy, that sought to address family issues before they required formal intervention.

The Cabinet Member noted the finance available for the proposed project, as well as the risks and uncertainties of a time-limited project that may not be adequate to support families with complex needs.

Resolved: - (1) That approval be given to undertake the project in conjunction with the children and young people's voluntary and community sector consortium and Children England, as outlined in the submitted report.

(2) That a further report be presented to the Cabinet Member outlining the outcomes of the project when it was completed.

## **D25. SCHOOL BALANCES 2011/2012.**

Consideration was given to the report submitted by the Principal School Finance Officer, CYPs Business Partnering, Financial Services, Resources Directorate. The report contained information as at 31st March, 2012, and included an update on: -

- The overall position;
- Individual schools' balances.

There was a significant increase in school balances at the close of the 2011/12 financial year to 138%, which equated to £8.71 millions. This had increased from £3.658 millions at the close of the 2010/11 financial year.

The overall balance at each phase at the end of the 2011/12 financial year was noted: -

- Primary schools – increased by 78%;
- Secondary schools – increased by 582%;
- Special schools – increased by 45%;
- Early Excellence Centres – decreased by 9%.

The balance increases were largely due to the delegation of former centrally held grants, from the Local Authority to individual schools, and the introduction of the Pupil Premium grant. These included: -

- Dedicated Schools' Grant (DSG);
- Additional Extended Services balances being allocated to schools;
- Additional Pupil Premium grant that had been received.

It was noted that 31 schools had a balance above the threshold set by the Department of Education (8% for a primary or special school; 5% for a secondary school), compared to 6 schools at the close of 2010/11.

The Department for Education (DfE) announced in the autumn term 2010 that it would no longer require individual local authorities' 'Scheme for Financing of Schools' to have a balance control mechanism:-

*"The scheme may contain a mechanism to clawback excess surplus balances. Any mechanism should have regard to the principle that schools should be moving towards greater autonomy, should not be constrained from making early efficiencies to support their medium-term budgeting in a tighter financial climate, and should not be burdened by bureaucracy. The mechanism should, therefore, be focused on only those schools which have built up significant excessive uncommitted balances and/or where some level of redistribution would support improved provision across a local area."*

Local Authorities should, therefore, consider removing or relaxing their existing mechanism with effect from 1st April 2011.

The Rotherham Schools' Forum agreed to retain the existing mechanism for the financial year 2011/2012, therefore schools with balances above the threshold have completed a return providing reasons for the given level of balances being held, along with a forecast plan of how they intend to utilise this sum over a three-year period.

A sub-group of the Rotherham Schools' Forum would be convened to consider whether to apply a clawback of the funding following consideration of the returns.

At the close of the 2011/12 financial year, there was a reduction in the revenue deficit balance in the primary and secondary phase of £824k. Only one secondary school held a significant deficit balance, for which a three-year deficit recovery programme was in place. At the close of the 2010/11 financial year there were 14 schools reporting a deficit position. At the close of the 2011/12 this had decreased to 7 schools.

Table one of the submitted report demonstrated Rotherham's performance against comparator authorities.

Discussion ensued on the content of the report: -

- Some Learning Communities had pooled funding and the amount was being held in one individual school's budget;
- Some Pupil Premium Grant funding had not been spent in year.

The Cabinet Member expressed concerns at the level of the overall balance positions, and in particular where Pupil Premium Grant funding had not been spent in-year to benefit individual children.

The Cabinet Member expected the Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services to give a clear message that schools should utilise funding in-year.

Resolved: - That the overall position of Rotherham's school balances be noted.

**D26. MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-GROUPS, WORKING PARTIES, PANELS AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2012/13.**

Resolved: - That the following appointments to Sub-Groups, Working Parties, Panels and Representatives on Outside Bodies for the Municipal Year 2012/13 be confirmed: -

**Adoption Panel: -**

Councillors Falvey, Havenhand and Sharman.

**Fostering Panel: -**

Councillors Pickering and Sharman.

**Redbarn Rowan Management Group: -**

Councillors Burton and Falvey.

**Rotherham Holiday Aid: -**

Councillors Havenhand and Beaumont.

**Rotherham Children and Young People's Trust Board: -**

Councillor Lakin, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services.

**Rotherham Local Safeguarding Children Board: -**

Councillor Lakin, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services.

**Think Family Strategic Group: -**

Councillor Lakin, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services, along with Councillors Burton and Beaumont.

**Local Admissions Forum: -**

Councillors Barron, Havenhand and Beaumont.

**Visits to Children's Establishments: -**

Councillor Lakin, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services, together with Advisers.

Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Improving Places Select Commission.

Ward Councillor.

**Education Consultative Committee: -**

Leader and Deputy Leader.

Councillor Lakin, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services, together with Advisers.

Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Improving Lives Select Commission.

**Rotherham Schools' Forum: -**

Councillor Lakin, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services.

**Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education: -**

Councillors Beaumont, Havenhand, Hussain and Sharman.

**Hospital Teaching and Home Tuition Service: -**

Councillor Dalton.

**Transport (Education) Appeals Panel**

Councillors Dodson, Gosling, Rushforth and Whelbourn (vacancies).

**Rotherham College of Arts and Technology Board: -**

Councillor Licence.

**Thomas Rotherham College Board: -**

Councillor Barron.

**Dearne Valley College: -**

Mr. Matthew Gladstone, Director, Commissioning, Policy and Performance, Resources Directorate.

**LEA Governors' Panel: -**

Councillor Lakin, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services, together with Advisers.

Councillor Sims.

**Inspire Rotherham Limited: -**

Councillor Lakin, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services and Mrs. Dorothy Smith, Director, Schools and Lifelong Learning, Children and Young People's Services.

**Yorkshire and Humberside Children and Young People Lead Member Network: -**

Councillor Lakin, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Families' Services.

**Yorkshire and Humberside Grid for Learning – Foundation Board: -**

Mrs. Susan Wilson, Performance and Quality Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Performance, Resources Directorate.

**Wales Education Foundation: -**

Councillors Whysall and Beck.

**D27. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC.**

Resolved: - That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended March 2006) (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular individual (including the Council)).

**D28. ASTON HALL JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL - PROVISION OF TEMPORARY CLASSROOM.**

Consideration was given to the report submitted by the Principal Capital Projects Manager, Audit and Asset Management, Resources Directorate, which outlined the tendering process for the provision of a modular classroom for Aston Hall Junior and Infant School to address rising pupil numbers in the school's catchment area.

Resolved: - That the tender submitted by Wernick Hire dated 13th July, 2012, be accepted.

**D29. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING: -**

Resolved: - That the next meeting take place on Wednesday 19th September, 2012, commencing at 9.00 am in the Rotherham Town Hall.